

# Student Test Number News



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INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION - DR. SUELLEN REED, SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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## Schools Throughout Indiana Connect

Many schools throughout Indiana are experiencing success in connecting to the Virtual Private Network (VPN) as they prepare to send STN data to the department. "We estimate that probably 60 percent are connected today. By the time data are sent, we expect to have 95 percent connected and functioning," says Mike Huffman, Special Assistant for Technology. Schools have been working through issues related to their individual network configurations and how that interacts with VPN software. Nonpublic schools as well as public schools are participating in the effort.

"We anticipated a certain number of issues. It is simply not possible to have in depth knowledge about the configuration of each individual school. Each configuration requires something slightly different. Luckily, the technology coordinators in the schools know their networks well. By using the STN listserv very effectively to communicate ideas and solutions, we are making rapid progress toward getting this initial hurdle out of the way," says Huffman.

The VPN connections will ensure that student data, when it is sent from the local schools, will be secure and safe. VPN connections provide the ultimate in network security and are used when security is a top concern.

## STN Application Center Opens

Superintendents of public schools and Principals of nonpublic schools have been mailed the Master User ID and password for the Student Test Number Application Center. Once this information is received, local officials may go in and create a set of User IDs for all schools in their district. The creation of User IDs is an easy process available through the Administrative tab in the application center.

Once connected through the VPN, user will see the initial login screen.



This is where Superintendents will enter the Master User ID that they have been sent. Once inside the application, new User IDs may be created.

The Add New User screen looks like this:



Each section in the Application Center has context sensitive help, complete with a full description of How to use each section, Tips, and a Troubleshooting guide.

## Dates Set for Sample and Final STN Data Transfer

A testing period has been established for local schools to send data files to the department. The testing period will allow schools to see if their data layouts match what is required and to work out any final issues that may exist before actual files are sent.

Beginning **Tuesday, May 28, 2002**, all schools may begin sending sample STN Lookup files. The testing period will end on **June 6, 2002**. Beginning **June 7, 2002**, all data base entries will be cleared and we will begin accepting final data for the STN data layout.

Department staff will work with schools during the testing period to resolve problems related to data layout and other issues.

## Step 2: Sample ISTEP+ Data Can be Sent Starting June 5

Schools may begin sending sample ISTEP+ pre-code label data on June 5, 2002. The testing period for ISTEP+ sample data will extend through June 28, 2002. The data layout for ISTEP+ is located at [http://www.doe.state.in.us/stn/pdf/version3\\_1a.PDF](http://www.doe.state.in.us/stn/pdf/version3_1a.PDF).

During this period, every school in Indiana should send sample data to ensure that they can meet the requirements of the data layout and successfully get information to the department. Schools need only send a few records to make sure that everything is in order. In the August, schools will send final data to the department. The data will be reformatted to meet requirements of CTB

**Step Two Continued on reverse**

McGraw Hill, and will be sent to them for the creation of bar code labels for test booklets and answer sheets. "The window in August is short, and this is when everyone must send their data. It is important that schools use the testing period to ensure that layouts and data values are correct. There will not be time in the fall to correct problems and resend data multiple times", says Wes Bruce, Director of Assessment for the Indiana Department of Education.

Student Test Numbers are confidential. No private nor governmental entity, including the state of Indiana or the Indiana Department of Education, will have access to the identity of individual students through their student test numbers, except local school districts.